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## **FARMER FROM WEST CARROLL PARISH SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

### ***Fraudulent claim for crop insurance puts farmer in prison***

**Monroe, Louisiana . . .** United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **WENDY GAIL HAYMAN**, age 31, of Oak Grove, Louisiana, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Robert G. James **to spend 16 months in prison** for committing crop insurance fraud and for making a false statement on her farm loan application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency. **HAYMAN was also ordered to pay a total of \$302,072 in restitution, with \$102,072 to be paid to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency, the federal agency which guaranteed the crop insurance, and \$200,000 to the West Carroll Parish Farm Service Agency, which funded the loan.**

HAYMAN pleaded guilty in February to one count of crop insurance fraud and one count of making a false statement on her loan from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in connection with a scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Testimony at the hearing in this case revealed that while applying for a farm loan with the USDA, FSA, HAYMAN falsely stated that she had no crop insurance when in truth and in fact she did. Evidence

further revealed that in order for HAYMAN to qualify for the crop insurance coverage on her sweet potato crop, she had to plant before the final date for planting in West Carroll Parish, which was on or before June 30, 2002. However, HAYMAN did not plant her sweet potato crop until after that date. In July 2002, HAYMAN falsely stated to the crop insurance company agent that she had indeed planted over 100 acres of sweet potatoes on or before the required date. In December 2002, HAYMAN made a crop insurance claim for the loss of her sweet potato crop and received a check in the amount of \$95,439.07 from the crop insurance company for her loss. She did not apply this check to pay her farm loan to FSA.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Gillespie, Jr.

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